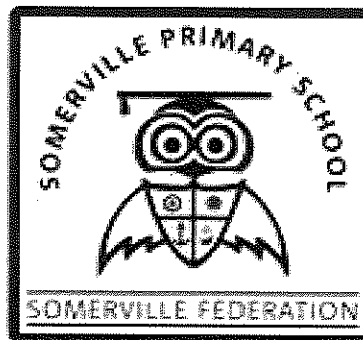


# SOMERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY



*"Education is the most  
powerful weapon that  
you can use to change  
the world"*

*- Nelson Mandela -*



Gates open: 8:45am  
School starts: 8:55am

School office - 0151 638 5074

# ATTENDANCE

The law states all children aged 5—16 must receive a suitable **full** time education.

With high attendance your child gets the chance to make **friends** and learns to get on with others.

**Communication** skills are vital for your child's development.

Research shows students with **less** than 90% attendance do dramatically less well in public examinations.

Everyday your child is absent from school is an opportunity missed. As a school and a parent we have a shared responsibility to ensure that your child attends school **regularly**.

A **2 week holiday** in school time means your child has approximately **50 hours of missed work**.

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING?**

- Attendance raffle ticket days for prizes -
- Attendance cup given out weekly and class rewarded with school time incentives -
- 100% attendance certificates -

### **How can we help you achieve excellent punctuality and attendance?**

We monitor attendance carefully and we will contact you if your child's attendance drops below 95%. If attendance problems continue we will ask you to meet with us to discuss a way forward. If all measures fail to lead to an improvement in attendance, we will refer your child to the Education Welfare Service and this may lead to legal action being instigated.

### **What should I do if my child is absent?**

By law, schools must record absences and the reason given. You must contact your child's school as soon as possible with a reason for absence on the first day.

## TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

Although we aim for 100% attendance, government guidelines say that attendance should be at least 95%.

As a result we are putting a new traffic light system into place to try to monitor attendance and punctuality more closely so that we can support those that need it.

100%	0% learning missed	Well done!
<b>GREEN</b> (95%+) attendance	8 days of learning lost	Best chance of success
95%		
<b>Amber</b> (95-85%)	19 days of learning lost	Poor attendance
90% attendance		
<b>Red</b> (below 85%)	28 days of learning lost	Very poor attendance
85% attendance		

# PUNCTUALITY

When your child arrives late at school they miss the teacher's instructions and the introduction to the lesson. Your child may also feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late. Punctuality is important for children to start the day off well.

## **What the children say....**

'My heart feels funny inside when I walk into the class late.'

'Everyone looks at me when I am late for school'

'I hate missing the start of the lesson as I don't know what to do, I have to ask the teacher for help more than everyone else'

'I have no friends in class to talk to because they are already in groups when I get into school'

'I want to be in class on time but we are always late, it makes me sad!'

'I have a strange feeling in my tummy when I am late, I am worried that I have missed something in class'

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Aim** for 10 hours sleep a night for your child.

Make sure your child **eats** breakfast.

Help your child develop **routines**, a nighttime routine could involve doing any homework, reading and then getting their bag ready for school before bed.

Try and make sure that any medical appointments are made **after** school.

Never take **holidays** in term time.

### Did you know?

Missing just **10 minutes of school a day** is the same as missing **two weeks over the year**.

Head teachers **cannot** authorise **any** leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

There are 190 statutory school days in one year. That means there are **175 days available to use for holidays!**

You can be **fined** up to **£2,500** or given **3 months prison sentence** if your child misses too much school.